

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California**

MP-03-065
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**RECLAMATION BEGINS PREPARATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON
NIMBUS HATCHERY WEIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Reclamation is seeking public input on the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for the Nimbus Hatchery Weir Replacement Project (Project). The Project will evaluate alternatives for replacing the fish diversion weir located downstream of Nimbus Dam to meet the mitigation goals of the Nimbus Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery.

The existing weir, which diverts salmon into the fish ladder at the Nimbus Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery, has deteriorated and is in need of replacement. Reclamation has tentatively identified two conceptual alternatives: (1) to replace the existing weir with a new weir immediately upstream of the existing one, and (2) to extend a fish ladder from the hatchery to the Nimbus Dam stilling basin and to use Nimbus Dam to divert the fish into the new fish ladder. With the second alternative, the existing weir would be removed.

Two public meetings are scheduled to discuss details of the Project, which include information on construction activities, possible changes to fishing regulations, and new opportunities. The meetings are being held on Wednesday, December 3, 2003, 6 – 8 p.m. and on Thursday, December 4, 2003, 9 – 11 a.m. Both meetings will be held at the CSUS Aquatic Center, 1901 Hazel Avenue, Rancho Cordova, California.

The public is invited to provide written comments on issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EA. Please send comments to Mr. David Robinson, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 7794 Folsom Dam Road, Sacramento CA 95630, or drobinson@mp.usbr.gov no later than Friday, December 19, 2003. For additional information, please contact Ms. Sammie Cervantes at 916-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608, or by e-mail at scervantes@mp.usbr.gov.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.